

1. A method of providing conditional answering in a multiple leg telecommunication session, the method comprising:

- (a) receiving an incoming call leg designating a primary directory number;
- (b) determining a plurality of secondary directory numbers associated with the primary directory number;
- (c) processing and routing each outgoing call leg associated with each secondary directory number, of the plurality of secondary directory numbers;
- (d) when an outgoing call leg, of the plurality of outgoing call legs, has been conditionally answered, providing called party information on the conditionally answered outgoing call leg; and
- (e) when an outgoing call leg, of the plurality of outgoing call legs, has been unconditionally answered, providing a connection between the unconditionally answered outgoing call leg and the incoming call leg to form a communication session.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein step (b) further comprises:
determining the called party information.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
providing a listing of a plurality of options to a calling party;
in response, receiving an option selection from the calling party; and
based upon the option selection, determining the called party information.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the plurality of options includes a language selection.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the plurality of options includes a service selection.

6. The method of claim 3, wherein the plurality of options includes a product selection.

7. The method of claim 3, wherein the plurality of options are designated in an ANSI-41 compatible Announcement List.

8. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
5 providing a listing of a plurality of options to a calling party;
in response, receiving an option selection from the calling party; and
based upon the option selection, determining the plurality of secondary
directory numbers.

10 9. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
requesting a name from a calling party;
storing in a memory a calling party name received in response; and
including the calling party name in the called party information.

15 10. The method of claim 1, wherein a conditional answering is indicated by entry of a predetermined code on an outgoing call leg of the plurality of outgoing call legs.

20 11. The method of claim 1, wherein a conditional answering is indicated by an off hook signal on an outgoing call leg of the plurality of outgoing call legs.

25 12. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
when a conditionally answered outgoing call leg has not provided an unconditional answer within a predetermined period of time, releasing the conditionally answered outgoing call leg.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
subsequent to the formation of the communication session, releasing all remaining outgoing call legs of the plurality of outgoing call legs.

Claim 9
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Specification

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the called party information includes the primary directory number.

5 15. The method of claim 1, wherein the called party information includes a distinctive identifier for the multiple leg telecommunication session.

10 16. The method of claim 1, wherein the called party information includes an indication of an amount of outgoing call legs in the plurality of outgoing call legs.

15 17. A system for providing conditional answering in a multiple leg telecommunication session, the system comprising:

a database, the database having stored in a memory a plurality of secondary directory numbers associated with a primary directory number; and

20 20 a switching center coupled to the database, the switching center having an interface for receiving an incoming call leg designating the primary directory number and for processing and routing each outgoing call leg associated with each secondary directory number, of the plurality of secondary directory numbers; the switching center further providing, when an outgoing call leg of the plurality of outgoing call legs has been conditionally answered, called party information on the conditionally answered outgoing call leg; and the switching center further providing, when an outgoing call leg of the plurality of outgoing call legs has been unconditionally answered, a connection between the unconditionally answered outgoing call leg and the incoming call leg to form a communication session.

25 18. The system of claim 17, wherein the database determines the called party information.

30 19. The system of claim 17, wherein the switching center further provides a listing of a plurality of options to a calling party, and in response, receives an option selection from the calling party; and wherein the database, based upon the option selection, determines the called party information.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein the plurality of options includes a language selection.

5 21. The system of claim 19, wherein the plurality of options includes a service selection.

22. The system of claim 19, wherein the plurality of options includes a product selection.

10 23. The system of claim 19, wherein the plurality of options are designated in an ANSI-41 compatible Announcement List transmitted from the database to the switching center.

15 24. The system of claim 17, wherein the switching center further provides a listing of a plurality of options to a calling party, and in response, receives an option selection from the calling party; and wherein the database, based upon the option selection, determines the plurality of secondary directory numbers.

20 25. The system of claim 17, wherein the switching center further requests a name from a calling party, stores in a memory a calling party name received in response, and includes the calling party name in the called party information.

25 26. The system of claim 17, wherein a conditional answering is indicated by entry of a predetermined code on an outgoing call leg of the plurality of outgoing call legs.

27. The system of claim 17, wherein a conditional answering is indicated by an off hook signal on an outgoing call leg of the plurality of outgoing call legs.

28. The system of claim 17, wherein the switching center, when a conditionally answered outgoing call leg has not provided an unconditional answer within a predetermined period of time, releases the conditionally answered outgoing call leg.

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29. The system of claim 17, wherein the switching center, subsequent to the formation of the communication session, releases all remaining outgoing call legs of the plurality of outgoing call legs.

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30. The system of claim 17, wherein the called party information includes the primary directory number.

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31. The system of claim 17, wherein the called party information includes a distinctive identifier for the multiple leg telecommunication session.

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32. The system of claim 17, wherein the called party information includes an indication of an amount of outgoing call legs in the plurality of outgoing call legs.

33. The system of claim 17, wherein the switching center is a mobile switching center and the database is a home location register.

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An apparatus for providing conditional answering in a multiple leg telecommunication session, the apparatus comprising:

a network interface for reception of an incoming call leg designating a primary directory number and for transmission of a plurality of outgoing call legs;

5 a memory having a plurality of secondary directory numbers associated with the primary directory number; and

a processor coupled to the memory and the network interface, wherein the

processor, when operative, includes instructions to process and route each outgoing call leg associated with each secondary directory number, of the plurality of secondary

10 directory numbers; the processor including further instructions, when an outgoing call leg of the plurality of outgoing call legs has been conditionally answered, to provide called

party information on the conditionally answered outgoing call leg; and the processor including further instructions, when an outgoing call leg of the plurality of outgoing call

15 legs has been unconditionally answered, to provide a connection between the unconditionally answered outgoing call leg and the incoming call leg to form a communication session.

35. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the processor determines the called party information.

20 36. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the processor includes further instructions to provide a listing of a plurality of options to a calling party, and in response, to receive an option selection from the calling party, and based upon the option selection, to determine the called party information.

25 37. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the plurality of options includes a language selection.

30 38. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the plurality of options includes a service selection.

39. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the plurality of options includes a product selection.

40. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the plurality of options are designated in an ANSI-41 compatible Announcement List transferred from the memory to the processor.

10 41. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the processor includes further instructions to provide a listing of a plurality of options to a calling party, and in response, to receive an option selection from the calling party, and based upon the option selection, to determine the plurality of secondary directory numbers.

15 42. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the processor includes further instructions to request a name from a calling party, to store in the memory a calling party name received in response, and to include the calling party name in the called party information.

20 43. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein a conditional answering is indicated by entry of a predetermined code on an outgoing call leg of the plurality of outgoing call legs.

44. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein a conditional answering is indicated by an off hook signal on an outgoing call leg of the plurality of outgoing call legs.

25 45. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the processor includes further instructions, when a conditionally answered outgoing call leg has not provided an unconditional answer within a predetermined period of time, to release the conditionally answered outgoing call leg.

46. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the processor includes further instructions, subsequent to the formation of the communication session, to release all remaining outgoing call legs of the plurality of outgoing call legs.

5 47. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the called party information includes the primary directory number.

10 48. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the called party information includes a distinctive identifier for the multiple leg telecommunication session.

15 49. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the called party information includes an indication of an amount of outgoing call legs in the plurality of outgoing call legs.

20 ✓ 50. A system for providing conditional answering in a multiple leg telecommunication session, the system comprising:
a home location register, the home location register having stored in a memory, in association with a pilot directory number, a plurality of secondary directory numbers and instructions for determining called party information; and
a mobile switching center coupled to the home location register, the mobile switching center having an interface for receiving an incoming call leg designating the pilot directory number and for processing and routing each outgoing call leg associated with each secondary directory number, of the plurality of secondary directory numbers; the mobile switching center, following reception of a directive from the home location register, obtaining information from a calling party for a determination of called party information; the mobile switching center further providing, when an outgoing call leg of the plurality of outgoing call legs has been conditionally answered, called party information on the conditionally answered outgoing call leg; and the mobile switching center further providing, when an outgoing call leg of the plurality of outgoing call legs has been unconditionally answered, a connection between the unconditionally answered outgoing call leg and the incoming call leg to form a communication session.

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51. The system of claim 50, wherein the directive to the mobile switching center from the home location register is an ANSI-41 compatible AnnouncementList designating a plurality of options, and wherein the mobile switching center further provides a listing of the plurality of options to the calling party, and in response, receives an option selection from the calling party and transmits the option selection to the home location register; and wherein the home location register, based upon the option selection, determines the called party information.

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52. The system of claim 50, wherein the directive to the mobile switching center from the home location register is an ANSI-41 compatible AnnouncementList designating a plurality of options, and wherein the mobile switching center further provides a listing of the plurality of options to the calling party, and in response, receives an option selection from the calling party and transmits the option selection to the home location register; and wherein the home location register, based upon the option selection, determines the plurality of secondary directory numbers.

53. The system of claim 50, wherein the plurality of options are predesignated by a subscriber from a set of selections, the set of selections including a language selection, a service selection, and a product selection.

54. The system of claim 50, wherein a plurality of types of information forming called party information are predesignated by a subscriber from a set of types of information, the set of types of information including calling party name information, the pilot directory number, a distinctive identifier for the multiple leg telecommunication session, and an indication of an amount of outgoing call legs in the plurality of outgoing call legs.